

**CLAIMS:**

1. A fastener for use in air massage systems used with a bathtub having a shell having at least two layers, at least one hole being defined through the shell, comprising a hollow body adapted to extend through said hole and securing means provided for anchoring said fastener in the hole and for retaining together the layers of the shell.

2. The fastener as defined in claim 1, wherein said securing means comprise enlarged distal and proximal elements provided at opposed ends of said hollow body and adapted to be disposed against inner visible and outer hidden surfaces of the shell.

3. The fastener as defined in claim 2, wherein said proximal element includes a decorative head at least partly overlying the visible surface of the shell.

4. The fastener as defined in claim 2, wherein said hollow body comprises a tubular member and said proximal element includes a head provided at a proximal end of said tubular member, said distal element comprising a deformable element adapted to be displaced from an insertion position to an anchoring position, wherein during installation said deformable element in said insertion position is inserted through the hole and, with said tubular member extending in the hole, is then deformed to said anchoring position, whereby when said deformable element is in said anchoring position, said head at least partly overlies the visible surface of the shell.

5. The fastener as defined in claim 4, wherein in said anchoring position, said deformed element has transverse dimensions greater than those of the hole and is located against the hidden surface of the shell, whereby said tubular member is securely held in position in the hole.

by said head and by said deformed element provided at opposed ends of said tubular member with the layers of the shell being imprisoned between said head and said deformed element.

6. The fastener as defined in claim 4, wherein said head is provided with a decorative surface at least on a visible portion thereof, said visible portion being opposite a hidden portion of said head adapted to contact part of the visible surface of the shell.

7. The fastener as defined in claim 6, wherein said visible portion of said head is generally rounded so as to avoid forming any sharp edge when installed in the bathtub.

8. The fastener as defined in claim 4, wherein said tubular member has at least one longitudinal slot extending through said deformable element, so as to allow the displacement of the deformable element between the insertion position and the anchoring position.

9. A fastener in combination with a bathtub provided with an air massage system, said bathtub comprising a shell defining a bathing cavity and having at least two juxtaposed layers defining opposed visible and hidden surfaces of said shell, a plurality of holes being defined through said shell such that pressurised air delivered by said air massage system is conveyed through said holes from said hidden surface to said visible surface and into said cavity, said fastener being provided for each of said holes and comprising a hollow body extending through said hole and securing means provided for anchoring said fastener in said hole and for retaining together said layers of said shell.

10. The combination as defined in claim 9, wherein said securing means comprise enlarged distal and proximal elements provided at opposed ends of said hollow body and

adapted to be disposed against inner visible and outer hidden surfaces of said shell.

11. The combination as defined in claim 10, wherein said proximal element includes a decorative head at least partly overlying said visible surface of said shell.

12. The combination as defined in claim 10, wherein said hollow body comprises a tubular member and said proximal element includes a head provided at a proximal end of said tubular member, said distal element comprising a deformable element adapted to displace from an insertion position to an anchoring position, wherein during installation said deformable element in said insertion position is inserted through said hole and, with said tubular member extending in said hole, is then deformed to said anchoring position, whereby when said deformable element is in said anchoring position, said head at least partly overlies said visible surface of said shell.

13. The combination as defined in claim 12, wherein in said anchoring position, said deformed element has transverse dimensions greater than those of said hole and is located against said hidden surface of said shell, whereby said tubular member is securely held in position in said hole by said head and by said deformed element provided at opposed ends of said tubular member with said layers of said shell being imprisoned between said head and said deformed element.

14. The combination as defined in claim 12, wherein said head is provided with a decorative surface at least on a visible portion thereof, said visible portion being opposite a hidden portion of said head adapted to contact part of said visible surface of said shell.

15. The combination as defined in claim 14, wherein said visible portion of said head is generally rounded thereby substantially smoothly merging with said visible surface of said bathtub.

16. The combination as defined in claim 10, further including a tool for installing said fastener to said shell, said tool including an elongated member adapted to extend into said fastener for inserting said fastener in said hole.

17. The combination as defined in claim 16, wherein said tool also includes an enlarged portion slidable through said hole and adapted when pulled out of said fastener located in the hole to cause said distal element of said fastener to enlarge radially to transverse dimensions that are greater than those of said hole.

18. The combination as defined in claim 17, wherein said enlarged portion of said tool is also adapted to radially expand said tubular member of said fastener within said hole.

19. A decorative device for use in air massage systems used with a bathtub having a shell and at least one hole defined through the shell, comprising a hollow body adapted to extend through said hole and a decorative member provided at a visible end of the decorative device and defining an opening in fluid communication with said hollow body such that pressurised air provided by the air massage system is conveyed through said decorative device and into the bathtub.

20. A method of installing a fastener into a hole of a shell of a bathtub provided with an air massage system, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a hollow fastener;
- (b) positioning said fastener on a tool;

(c) inserting said tool and said fastener carried thereby in said hole via a first direction;

(d) displacing said tool in a second direction different than said first direction such that said tool deforms said fastener and secures said fastener to said hole; and

(e) removing said tool from said hole.

21. The method as defined in claim 20, wherein said tool includes an elongated member adapted to extend into said fastener in steps (b) and (c) for inserting said fastener in said hole, and an enlarged portion slidable through said hole and adapted when pulled out, along said second direction in step (d), of said fastener located in the hole to cause a distal element of said fastener to enlarge radially to transverse dimensions that are greater than those of said hole.

22. The method as defined in claim 21, wherein said enlarged portion of said tool is also adapted, in step (d), to radially expand a tubular member of said fastener located within said hole.

23. The method as defined in claim 20, wherein said tool includes a fastener-receiving cavity for displacing said fastener in said first direction, and a carrier portion displaceable with respect to a remainder of the tool in said first and second directions to deform said fastener.

24. The method as defined in claim 20, further comprising a step of putting an adhesive on the fastener prior to step (c).